Fund utilisation in JRY

775. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to appoint monitoring committees for JRY works;

(b) if not, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to improve the funds utilisation in JRY programme in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL) : (a) to (c) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) is an on-going wage employment programme and is being monitored regularly by the Central and the State Governments through monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports received from the implementing agencies. Besides, the State Headquarters and districts, subdivision and block level officers closely monitor all aspects of the programme through visits to the work-sites State Level Co-ordination Committees (SLCCs) for Rural Development also monitor the progress of implementation of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) alongwith other schemes. A representative from the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment also participates in the SLCC meetings.

In addition, the Government of India periodically convenes meetings with the State Secretaries and the Project Directors of District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads (DRDAs/ZPs) to review the programme with a view to effecting improvements in the quality of implementation. The Government of India has also undertaken concurrent evaluation of JRY through independent institutions/organisations to assess its impact in the rural areas in relations to the specific objectives of the programme.

The Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment have also introduced a system of Area Officers during the year 1993-94 with a view to effectively monitor the various programmes of Rural Development including JRY. Under this scheme, senior officers at the level of Deputy Secretary and above have been allocated one or two State(s) each. They are required to visit the State(s) allotted to them and give a feedback on the implementation of rural development programme including JRY. To give greater attention to the States with higher proportion of rural poor and unemployed, the Area Officers Scheme has further been strengthened w.e.f. 1.1.1994 by including officers from the Department of Programme Implementation, Department of Westlands Development and the Planning Commission also in the various teams of Area Officers. In view of the above, there is no proposal to appoint Monitoring Committee for JRY works.

Amount due for rural development in Tamil Nadu

776. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount meant for rural development, due to Tamil Nadu from the Central Government allocation has been released after having issued orders by Government of India to withhold that amount, because the Government of Tamil Nadu did not conduct the local body elections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The process of release of eligible funds under the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Areas &